## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-02 OPIC-03 /102 W

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R 111833Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9165

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY SUVA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOR EB/ICO/TRP

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: SUGAR: INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COLLOQUIUM (ISC)

1. SUMMARY. ATTENDANCE AT THE ISC HELD IN LONDON MARCH 4 AND 5 TOTALED OVER 600 SUGAR INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM 50 COUNTRIES. THE MEETING WAS ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN SUGAR MANUFAC-TURERS, GROWERS AND TRADERS. OVER 25 US INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED IN ADDITION TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL FROM STATE AND USDA AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION OF STATE. CONSUMER COMMENTS CENTERED ON EXPECTED INCREASED SUGAR PRODUCTION IN 1975/76 AND REDUCED CONSUMPTION. PRODUCERS STRESSED AN ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT PRODUCTION DUE TO LOW INVESTMENT CAUSED BY LOW PRICES IN THE PAST. CONSUMERS JOCKEYED TO PRODUCE BEARISH SENTIMENT ON PRICES WHILE PRODUCERS ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN BULL SENTIMENT. THE BEARS GENERALLY CARRIED THE DAY. EC DELEGATES IN PARTICULAR STRESSED THEIR PLANS FOR HIGHER BEET OUTPUT IN 1975/76 AND AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EC RETURN TO A NET EXPORTER STATUS. FOR THE LONG-TERM, THE FAO DELEGATE PREDICTED AN INCREASE IN WORLD DEMAND, WITH NO CLEAR VIEW YET POSSIBLE OF HOW THIS WOULD BE MET. ALL SPEAKERS CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ONLY HARD ANALYSIS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND THROUGH 1980-1985 WAS SUPPLIED BY FAO DELEGATE VITON. HE POINTED

OUT THE DANGER OF SUCCUMBING TO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF CROP YEARS DUE TO HIGHER OUTPUT. VITON PREDICTS A NEED FOR 9.5-10.5 MILLION METRIC TONS (MMT) MORE OUTPUT BY 1980 AND AN ADDITIONAL 10 MMT BY 1985. THESE DATA WERE NOT CHALLENGED.

- 3. WHERE THE ADDITIONAL OUTPUT WILL COME FROM IS NOT CLEAR. DEVELOPED COUNTRY IMPORTERS PROJECT MUCH LARGER BEET CROPS IN 1975/76 (2.5 MMT IN EC AND 850,000-ONE MILLION SHORT TONS IN US). SEVERAL LDC CANE PRODUCERS PREDICTED PRODUCTION INCREASES. FOR THE LONGER TERM, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW INCREASED DEMAND WILL BE MET (THE HIGH COST OF INVESTMENT AND INTERNAL PRODUCER PRICE CONTROLS WERE MENTIONED AS CONSTRAINTS). LATIN AMERICAN, AUSTRALIAN AND PHILIPPINE DELEGATES MENTIONED EXPANSION POTENTIAL BUT ALSO CALLED FOR STABLE PRICES TO PROVIDE INVESTMENT INCENTIVE.
- 4. ALL SPEAKERS CALLED FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT (ISA) AT AN EARLY DATE. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR ORGANIZATION (ISO) CALLED FOR A FLEXIBLE AGREEMENT ADAPTABLE TO CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS AND MEETING THE MINIMUM PRICE NEEDS OF PRODUCERS SO AS TO CALL FORTH INCREASED SUGAR PRODUCTION. MANY THOUGHTS ON WHAT AN AGREEMENT MIGHT CONTAIN WERE PUT FORWARD. THE POINTS MOST OFTEN MADE INCLUDED A

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FLOOR PRICE, AN INTERVENTION STOCK MANAGED BY THE ISO BUT HELD IN EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND THE NEED FOR A STANDBY AGREEMENT TO ENABLE THE ISO TO TAKE ACTION TO COUNTER VIOLENT PRICE SWINGS. EC, UK, AND FAO DELEGATES PARTICULARLY CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF A NEW NEW AGREEMENT.

- 5. ACP GROUP COUNTRIES NOTED THEIR DELIGHT WITH THEIR EC SUGAR ACCORD. CLAUDE CHEYSSON OF EC COMMISSION SPOKE OF RECENT EC/ACP (LAME) AGREEMENT IN GLOWING TERMS AS A START TOWARD A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER IN THE COMMODITIES FIELD. CHEYSSON CALLED FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF COMMODITY MARKETS AS A STEP TO FORESTALL MOVES TOWARD CARTELIZATION. HE SAID A NEW ISA COULD SET AN EXAMPLE. CHEYSSON' PRESENTATION WAS HIGHLY POLITICAL IN ITS OVERALL TONE AND WAS THEREFORE SOMEWHAT DISCOUNTED BY OTHER DELEGATES.
- 6. LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATES PRAISED THE US SUGAR ACT FOR ITS INCOME STABILIZING EFFECTS OVER THE PERIOD WHEN WORLD MARKET PRICES DID NOT EVEN COVER THE TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS OF PRODUCING SUGAR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 7. THE MAJOR US PRESENTATION WAS BY ROBERT QUITTMEYER, PRESIDENT OF AMATAR SUGAR. ITS FOCUS WAS THE INROADS OF ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS ON THE US SUGAR MARKET, PARTICULARLY HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SWEETENERS. HIS PREDICTION THAT ONE TO THREE MILLION TONS OF SUGAR SALES COULD BE LOST TO SUCH SWEETENERS OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS DEFINITELY HAD AN EFFECT ON THE AUDIENCE, PARTICULARLY LDC EXPORTERS. HE PREDICTED A US SUGAR MARKET IN 1985 OF 6.8 MILLION SHORT TONS OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND ONLY 3.8 MILLION SHORT TONS OF IMPORTS, WITH ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS TAKING UP THE REST OF THE SWEETENER MARKET.
- 8. COMMENT: THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT POLITICIZED, PROVED TO BE A VERY USEFUL MEETING GROUND FOR SUGAR EXPERTS AND A FERTILE FIELD FOR THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION. THE PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS WERE THE NEED FOR A NEW ISA AND THE EXPECTATION OF MORE PRODUCTION AND LOWER PRICES IN THE MEDIUM TERM. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE WORRY ABOUT SUPPLY OVER THE LONGER TERM UNLESS STABLE PRICES WERE ACHIEVED AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO FOSTER INVESTMENT.
- 9. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ISA OFFICIALS AFTER THE COLLOQUIUM IT BECAME CLEAR THAT A TIMETABLE FOR

RENEGOTIATION HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED. THE NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP SESSION IN MAY MAY MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY ENOUGH TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN IN THE FALL OF 1975, BUT RENEGOTIATION IS MORE LIKELY TO BEGIN IN THE SPRING OF 1976. A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PREPARATORY WORK ON MANY OF THE ELEMENTS OF ANY NEW ISA, CONCENTRATING ON STOCK POLICY AND PRICE POLICY, MUST FIRST BE UNDERTAKEN. THE ISO STAFF IS BEGINNING WORK ON DOCUMENTS FOR FURTHER STUDY AT THE MAY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

RICHARDSON

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